

**Edgar Cecil and Victor Horace Myles**

**Isle of Wight County Press  
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**EPIDEMIC BRONCHIAL PNEUMONIA.**

**PATHETIC DEATH OF NEWPORT CHILDREN.**

Last (Friday) evening, the Deputy Coroner for the Island (F. A. Joyce, Esq.) held an inquest at the Wesleyan Schoolroom, Hunnyhill, Newport, on the bodies of Edgar Cecil and Victor Horace Myles, aged 4<sup>1/2</sup> and 2<sup>1/2</sup> years respectively, the only children of Mr. Edgar H. Myles, of 62 Booth-terrace, Hunnyhill, a barber at Parkhurst Barracks, both of whom died after a brief illness this week.- The FATHER stated that the elder child attended school on Friday last, and was taken ill on Saturday, but not seriously. On Monday he called in Dr. Foster, who prescribed for the child, who was taken much worse on Tuesday and died about 7 in the evening. The younger boy, who was never in the sick room, was taken ill just before his brother's death, being seized with vomiting, and he was medically attended, and Drs. Foster and Coombs were present at his death on Thursday morning. There had been a lot of sickness about; he had nothing but sickness at his home.- In reply to the foreman (Mr. J. R. Wise), WITNESS said there had been something wrong with the drains of his house, and one had been attended to. There was no flushing tank in the lavatory.- The FOREMAN said that was a nice state of things for a borough.- Dr. FOSTER said he was called on Monday afternoon to see the elder child, who was not very ill then, but complained of its throat, was feverish, and was apparently sickening for an illness. On Tuesday afternoon witness found the child was dying. The younger child appeared to be less ill at the outset, being only in a feverish condition, and there was nothing to indicate a serious illness. On Thursday morning the child suddenly collapsed and died. Not being able to definitely decide as to the cause of the death, it was his wish and that of the father that the matter should be thoroughly cleared up, and a report was made to the Coroner, who directed a post mortem. That examination was made by him and Dr. Underhill, and they came to the conclusion that death was caused by epidemic bronchial pneumonia, the condition of the children being exactly similar. The children were well nourished, and had received every attention from the parents and a neighbour, Mrs. Farley. - The FOREMAN: Do you think that it was caused by the insanitary conditions of the house? - No, I don't think so. He thought the high winds and dust would contribute towards such illness. There had been a lot of illness in the neighbourhood, with pneumonia from one end to the other, strong people have gone under with it. Those conditions were more likely to have accounted for the illness than defective drains. - Dr. UNDERHILL gave confirmatory evidence, and said the majority of medical men admitted that a form of bronchial pneumonia was epidemic.- The CORONER said there was no question of neglect on the part of the parents, and the FOREMAN said he knew the parents and was sure the children were well attended to.- A verdict of "Death from natural causes" in accordance with the medical evidence, was returned, and sympathy was expressed with the parents.- The FOREMAN asked if a request might not be made to have the drains of the house inspected by the medical officer, and the CORONER said yes, although he did not think pneumonia could be connected with drainage. No doubt the authorities would take notice of what had been said.

Transcription by Kate MacDonell for the Friends of Newport and Carisbrooke Cemeteries,  
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